

1-12-2017

# Agricultural Labor Relations Report, 2017

Maine Department of Labor

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## Recommended Citation

Maine Department of Labor, "Agricultural Labor Relations Report, 2017" (2017). *Labor Documents*. 28.  
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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
54 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0054

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

Jeanne S. Paquette  
COMMISSIONER

January 12, 2017

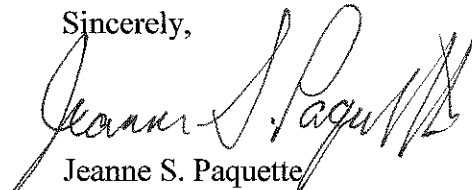
The Honorable Amy F. Volk, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau, House Chair  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic  
Development  
128th Maine Legislature  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Volk, Representative Fecteau and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development:

Pursuant to 26 MRSA, c. 16, §2, the Department of Labor (the 'Department') was tasked with  
reviewing the status of labor relations in the State between agricultural employees and  
agricultural employers who operate egg processing facilities that have over 500,000 laying birds  
and employ more than 100 agricultural employees. The Department was asked to assess the  
impact of law changes contained in the original Agricultural Employees Labor Relations Act. If  
needed, the Department could develop recommendations necessary to promote agreements  
between agricultural employers and agricultural employees to limit industrial strife, promote  
stability in the farm labor force and improve the economic status of workers and businesses.

Since 2012, the Department has not received any formal complaints from agricultural employees  
alleging strife within the industry that would require further legislative action. It is the  
Department's recommendation that no new legislation be submitted. The Department will  
continue to assist the industry with employment services through our Bureau of Employment  
Services and also compliance assistance with labor law enforcement through our Bureau of  
Labor Standards, should the need arise.

Sincerely,



Jeanne S. Paquette  
Commissioner